Date: April 17, 2009 Contact: Michelle Ganon

Communications Director

Phone: 619-533-6556

619-980-8429

For Immediate Release E-mail: mganon@sandiego.gov

COUNCIL PRESIDENT HUESO PARTICIPATES IN ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 AT DOROTHY PETWAY COMMUNITY PARK

SAN DIEGO - Council President Ben Hueso envisions a city of tree-lined streets with a welcoming urban feel and sense of community spirit. At every opportunity, he takes practical steps in District 8 to beautify the neighborhoods and support the environment by participating in tree-planting events. The results are impressive. "After our Arbor Day efforts, we will have planted more than 800 trees just this year," he said. "Our neighborhoods change for the better with each tree we put in the ground, and the benefits last for years!"

San Diego will celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Dorothy Petway Community Park. Hueso will be there to support the multi-agency effort that includes the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric, Community Forest Advisory Board, San Diego Regional Urban Forest Council, and Urban Corps of San Diego.

The event itself will be both fun and educational. Dozens of trees will be planted and attendees will be given a free starter sapling for their own front yards. The public education component will include subjects on practical matters such as a demonstration on how to save mature trees during water crises.

All age groups are welcome. Louie the Lightning Bug and Smokey Bear will make special appearances to entertain children; booths, trucks, displays and refreshments will enhance the morning's festive feel.

Location information: Dorothy Petway Neighborhood Park connects Southcrest and Shelltown neighborhoods in Southeastern San Diego. It is located at 1375 Rigel Street off Main Street near the Interstate-5 and Interstate-15 interchange.